



ADOT MAIN

BRUCE BABBITT
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE HOUSE
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

IN REPLY
REFER TO:

May 18, 1981

The Honorable Ray A. Barnhart
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: INTERSTATE 10 CONSTRUCTION

Dear Mr. Barnhart:

Construction of Interstate 10 within the Phoenix metropolitan area has been a long and frustrating process. I am certain that we share a common goal in the completion of the Interstate segment through Phoenix.

To help accelerate the I-10 design and construction efforts, I request that you:

1. Approve advanced acquisition of right-of-way for reasons of hardship within the freeway corridor, as permitted by regulation in extreme or hardship cases. A number of property owners have been placed in a difficult position by the slow progress of the project. Homes have been frozen out from the normal real estate market because of the freeway and, in spite of excellent cooperation of divisional FHWA staff, property owners have suffered a 12 year limbo in disposing of their property. I request that all property owners within the I-10 corridor who wish to have their land acquired be considered hardship cases and we move immediately to buy their property.
2. Authorize immediate initiation of engineering design work on major drainage features and utility relocation related to the I-10 urban corridor. Major storm drain system design work must be initiated immediately if the already beleaguered construction schedule is to progress.

The Honorable Ray A. Barnhart
May 18, 1981
Page Two


In my opinion, preauthorization for the requested design work does not do damage to the public involvement process since both the drainage and utility relocation work is necessary to build the depressed freeway required in the 1978 approval.

If federal funds are not available for the accelerated design, I will authorize the use of state funds to retain the necessary engineering firms understanding that federal reimbursement would eventually be made.

I am certain that you agree that we must move in a timely and expeditious manner to complete the urban elements of the I-10 freeway. Your approval of the hardship right-of-way acquisition and pre-design will be a help in moving the Interstate completion along.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bruce Babbitt
Governor

BB:kqb

cc: Mr. Willett, FHWA, Phoenix
Mr. Ordway, Arizona Department of Transportation